

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



## THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Vlad Formanek (*Formanek Family*)
- 11:00AM John DeRiso (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Tommaso Basile & Family (*Bellant Family*)  
 Vincent Caruso (*Leone Family*)  
 Giuseppina Cirelle (*Lena Melisi*)  
 James Kingsley (*Leone Family*)  
 Jean LeFavi (*St. Helen Religious Ed*)  
 Perillo Family (*Rose & Ralph Trapasso*)
- 5:00PM Elaine Caraccio (*Fred & Jennie DeMarie*)

### MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 *St. John of God*

- 9:00AM Frank Bitetto (*Barbara Bitetto*)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 *St. Frances of Rome*

- 9:00AM Leonard Brattoli (*Loving Wife & Daughter*)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

- 9:00AM Paul Auwarter (*M/M Joseph Zanghi*)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

- 9:00AM Jean Colantuoni (*Mary Lou Colantuoni*)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

- 9:00AM Joseph Meshak (*Longo Family*)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021

- 9:00AM Vernon Smith (*Linda DeSantis*)
- 5:00PM Demetra Arianas (*M/M Noriega*)  
 Louie Bamundo (*James Priolo*)  
 Joey D'Ambrossio (*Rebecca Barnett*)  
 Rocky DeSola (*Edward Christopher*)  
 Tony Imbriano (*Deborah & Vinnie Longo*)  
 Theresa Kuzmicki (*Evelyn & John Scanlon*)  
 Francesca Lentini (*Vincenza Manzella*)  
 Bro. James McVeigh (*Secular Franciscans*)  
 Stephan Mshar (*Coach Vincent Leonardo*)  
 Patsy D. Murgida (*Dolores Priolo*)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

- 8:00AM In Thanksgiving for the Missionaries of Charity (*Vita Monastero*)
- 9:30AM Stanley Jasiak, Jr. (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Capozziello-DiSanto Family (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM In Thanksgiving (*Joe & Donna Palagonia*)  
 Macaluso Family (*Casillo Family*)  
 Antonino Pedone (*Loving Family*)  
 Myrtle Pugliese (*M/M N. Spinelli*)  
 Fred Spagnuolo (*Loving Wife, Grazia*)  
 Vincenza Spagnuolo (*Sister-in-law Grazia*)  
 Special Intentions of Zoribel Torres
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners



**Peter Charles Gotti**  
**Vincenzo Moccia — Anna Romani**



### GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE

We would like to thank **Vita Monastero**, who has been keeping the statue. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.



**Please join us every Tuesday at 1:00PM** in Church to pray the special prayers to **The Holy Face of Jesus** in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, the profaners of his Holy Name and of the Holy Day of Sunday.

**Are you new to St. Helen Parish?** If so, please stop in at the Rectory to register your family, or for easier and faster service please register through our website at [www.sthelen.org](http://www.sthelen.org)!



Amado Araneta, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Barbara Bitetto, Theresia Brech, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Marge D'Auria, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Tina DiPalo, Mary Divers, Colin F., Jennie Federici, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, Tony Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Rosemarie & Joseph Guagenti, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Henry J. Hinton, Steven Iglie, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazzeri, Susan Leone, James Leung, Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, John Myers, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Doris Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Josephine Profera, Vivian Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Recupero Family, Frances Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torall, Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Intentions for the next monthly Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered on **Friday, March 26, 2021.**

# faith is Back!

## LAB

**Each Tuesday during Lent we will once again be conducting Faith Lab.**

The definition of a Laboratory is: "A room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching." Now, we will not be creating anything like some mad scientists! Faith Lab is an invitation to all parishioners to bring their thoughts, research, and questions to the table in a setting that will be led by one or both of the priests of the parish.

We will not be solving the problems of the world but more like engaging each other with questions like... Why do we do that? or Does the Church teach this? or Father, what's your opinion? (including some of the more sticky questions). Father Giulietti and I are not theologians, and so you may stump both of us! In fact, we will be open to anonymous questions!

There is no sign up and no prerequisites or requirements, just a willingness to explore the Catholic faith in a respectful manner using Scripture, tradition, anecdotes and experiences.

Faith Lab will be held in Church at 7:00PM on **March 9, March 16, & March 23** (Faith Lab will not be held on the Tuesday of Holy Week).

If you would like to submit questions for Faith Lab, you may place the questions in the collection any weekend Mass prior to Faith Lab, and we will answer them at the meeting. Please place your questions in an envelope marked "Faith Lab". You may submit a question even if you do not attend.

**Come join us to explore and investigate the Catholic Faith!  
Fr. Colamaria & Fr. Giulietti**

### Regulations Concerning Fasting and Abstinence

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of mandatory fasting and abstinence from meat.
- All Fridays in Lent are days of mandatory abstinence from meat.
- The obligation to fast applies to those aged 18-59.
- The obligation to abstain from meat applies to those aged 14 and older.
- Those fasting may eat only one normal-sized meal. Two smaller meals may be eaten, if needed for strength. These smaller meals together should not equal a normal-sized meal. No food may be eaten between meals.
- The bishops of the United States recommend voluntary fasting on the other weekdays of Lent. It is a praiseworthy tradition to fast on Holy Saturday, until the Easter Vigil.
- It is worth remembering that every Friday of the year is a day of penance, unless a solemnity falls on a Friday. In the United States, on Fridays outside of Lent, one may choose either to abstain from eating meat or to perform some other act of penance.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH BENEDICTION  
Every Friday evening at 7:30PM.

CONFESSION  
Monday - Friday: 8:45AM  
Saturdays: 12:30-1:30PM

**Reconciliation Monday:**  
**March 29, 2021: 3:00-8:00PM**

### Sponsorship Certificates

If you have been asked to be a godparent for baptism, or sponsor for Confirmation, you will need a Sponsorship Certificate form which can be completed by one of the priests or deacons **in the Church directly after any of the weekday morning or weekend Masses**. Appointments are not made for these at the Rectory. You must come yourself—you cannot send someone else to get the form for you.



**Parents seeking Baptism for their children** *who live within the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to register as members of the parish before requesting an initial interview for Baptism. Registration is easily done at the parish office anytime during business hours.

Parents seeking Baptism for their children *who live outside the territory of St. Helen Parish* are asked to obtain a letter from the parish in which they live authorizing the Baptism to take place at St. Helen.

Initial meetings with parents seeking Baptism for their children **who have already been born** will normally take place **on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00–9:00PM and on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00AM–12:00PM.**

**Upcoming Mornings of Preparation (Required Before a Baptism)**  
(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room): **April 25 & May 23**

**Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): **April 25 & May 23****

Dates for the Morning of Preparation and Baptisms are the same for the convenience of the Celebrant. It is **strongly suggested** you plan on taking the Baptism class **prior** to the date of your child's baptism.

**Please call 718-738-1616 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment.**

## **READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **Reading I**      *Ex 20:1-17*

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers’ wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. “You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain. “Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.”

**R.**    *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye. **R.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just. **R.**

They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb. **R.**



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## **READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **Reading II**

*1 Cor 1:22-25*

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### **Verse Before the Gospel**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.



### **Gospel**

*Jn 2:13-25*

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Dearest Parishioners of St. Helen's,

It is my joy and pleasure sending you my message of love at this time in our lives. You have always been a great part of my thoughts and prayers since our paths crossed close to 8 years ago and I came to experience your goodness and a good chunk of your love.

I have been wanting to communicate to you all during this tough period of the pandemic to check on you and to assure you of my prayers and good wishes. Some of you who could, have also reached out to me through email and/or *whatsapp*, and that makes me so happy and grateful.

I have imagined how you and your families have been coping with the pandemic. Thankfully over here, I am well and my parents and siblings overseas are all well. May the Lord continue to support you!

Since after the lockdown last year and the Christmas break, I have been back to teaching at my Catholic University here in Abuja, Nigeria and most importantly, working still to establish the law school here. We are proceeding slowly but surely, and we thank God.

Nigeria is a country at the brink of disintegration, plagued by all kinds of trouble and distress. The Muslim hegemony is on auto drive now and we live daily in fear, not knowing what could happen next. Sadly everyone has been intimidated into silence while the international community has completely ignored us. So the Muslim marauders have free reign now with loss of lives being seen as part of daily life, especially as the northern Muslim elements continue to slowly infiltrate the largely Christian south. Very scary!

Since the coronavirus is not killing as much people here, I believe largely, due to the hot climate and divine providence too, the virus has become a money-making occasion for government leaders and those in the corridors of power. Some of those who have died should not have died if they were given proper care, but that care is non-existent. Please pray for Nigeria!

However, in the face of a lingering and protracted Covid-19 pandemic, strict lockdowns and in many places, overbearing religious restrictions, we must realize that Christ our greatest hope lives. We must find strength in the liturgy and especially in the breaking of bread. Let us, therefore, remain hopeful and resolute so we don't lose our power and strength.

I thank Fr. Colamaria, pastor and leader of a special kind for keeping Christ front and center for you in these trying moments. May the Lord always renew his strength along with his associates and all the other priests of the Church who are working so hard to steady the ship of life and faith during these unusual days.

All of you, good people of St. Helen's, remain in my prayers until such a time that God makes it possible to see you again. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as you always do.

In the meantime, keep strong and keep safe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Dr. Anthony Azuwiki**